Transfer of Action

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

Definitions:

- Transfer of action: "Any action or the trial of any issue or issues therein may be transferred, by order of the court on its own motion or on the granting of a motion of any of the parties, or by agreement of the parties, from the superior court for one judicial district to the superior court in another court location within the same district or to a superior court location for any other judicial district, upon notice by the clerk to the parties after the order of the court, or upon the filing by the parties of a stipulation signed by them or their attorneys to that effect." CONN. GEN. STAT. § 51-347b(a) (2003).
- Transfer of cases to the regular docket: "A case duly entered on the small claims docket of a small claims area or housing session court location shall be transferred to the regular docket of the superior court or to the regular housing docket, respectively, if the following conditions are met" CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 24-21(a) (2004 ed.).

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Transfer, Motion to

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic references relating to the motion to transfer actions

DEFINITIONS:

- Transfer of action: "Any action or the trial of any issue or issues therein may be transferred, by order of the court on its own motion or on the granting of a motion of any of the parties, or by agreement of the parties, from the superior court for one judicial district to the superior court in another court location within the same district or to a superior court location for any other judicial district, upon notice by the clerk to the parties after the order of the court, or upon the filing by the parties of a stipulation signed by them or their attorneys to that effect." CONN. GEN. STAT. § 51-347b(a) (2003).
- **Procedure for transfer:** "Any cause, or the trial of any issue therein, may be transferred from a judicial district court location to any other judicial district court location or to any geographical area court location, or from a geographical area court location to any other geographical area court location or to any judicial district court location, by order of a judicial authority (1) upon its own motion or upon the granting of a motion of any of the parties, or (2) upon written agreement of the parties filed with the court. (See General Statutes § 51-347b and annotations.)" CONN. PRACTICE BOOK § 12-1 (2004 ed.).
- For Issues only: "If only the trial of an issue or issues in the action has been transferred, the files, after the issues have been disposed of, shall be returned to the clerk of the court for the original judicial district or location, and judgment may be entered in such court." CONN. GEN. STAT. § 51-347b(c) (2003).
- Court fees: "An entry fee shall not be required to be paid to the court to which any transfer pursuant to this section was made. CONN. GEN. STAT. § 51-347b(d) (2003).

STATUTES:

CONN. GEN. STAT. (2003)

Chapter 890. Judicial districts, geographical areas, civil and criminal venue, filing and designation of court locations

8 51 347b. Transfer of causes by court, motion or agreement. Transfer of causes by court, motion or agreement.

§ 51-347b. Transfer of causes by court, motion or agreement. Transfer by Chief Court Administrator

COURT RULES

CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK (2004 ed.)

Chapter 12. Transfer of action

§ 12-1. Procedure for transfer

§ 12-2. Transfer of action filed in wrong location of correct court

§ 12-3. Transmission of files and papers

HISTORY & COMMENTARIES ON COURT RULES

Commentary and history following § 12-3 in CONN. PRACTICE BOOK (1999 ed.):

"HISTORY: In 1999, the 'certificate of closed pleadings' was substituted twice for 'trial list claim' and 'inventory of ending cases' was substituted for 'trial list.'"

"COMMENTARY: The amendments to this section make it consistent with Sections 14-4 through 14-10, which no longer use the terms 'trial list claim."

FORMS:

2 CONN. PRACTICE BOOK (October 1997).

Form 106.13. Motion for change of venue

Form 106.17. Transfer of action

• 2 JOEL M. KAYE ET AL., CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK ANNOTATED (3rd ed. 1996).

§ 106.13-A. Motion to transfer

§ 106.13-B. Stipulation for transfer

• MARY ELLEN WYNN AND ELLEN B. LUBELL, HANDBOOK OF FORMS FOR THE CONNECTICUT FAMILY LAWYER (1991).

Form No. XX-A-3. Motion to transfer, p. 272

CASES:

- Mill Plains Homes, Inc. v. Great American Ins. Co., 2 Conn. Cir. Ct. 124, 126, 196 A.2d 122 (1963). "It would be highly improper to transfer a cause from the comparatively current docket to the probably overloaded docket of another trial tribunal for no other reason than that the defendant might prefer that course to be taken."
- Senk v. Danbury National Bank, 13 Conn. Sup. 234, 234 (1945). "The court is of the opinion that the reasons urged in support of the motion are more persuasive than the fact that the attorneys for the plaintiff are located in New Haven and the plaintiff himself has his headquarters in New York. This would seem to be a case which should be tried in Waterbury. No inconvenience appearing for plaintiff or his counsel, the motion for transfer is granted."

WEST KEY NUMBERS:

Courts

Transfer of causes #487(9). Proceedings

• Venue

#44

TEXTS & TREATISES:

• 1 WESLEY W. HORTON AND KIMBERLY A. KNOX, CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK ANNOTATED (2004 ed.).

Authors' comments following §§ 12-1 to 12-3

2 JOEL M. KAYE ET AL., CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK ANNOTATED (3rd ed. 1996).

Commentary following Forms 106.13, 106.13A, 106.13B and 106.17

- 1 RALPH P. DUPONT, DUPONT ON CONNECTICUT CIVIL PROCEDURE (2003 ed.).
 - § 12-1.1. Return to improper locations
 - § 12-1.2. Venue improper; Transfer to proper district
 - § 12-2.1. Clerk not to accept process; When
 - § 12-2.2. Dismissal for improper venue
 - § 12-3.1. Ministerial duties of clerk on transfer
 - § 12-3.2. Trial list; Transferred case placed on

- JEANINE M. DUMONT, PLEADINGS AND PRETRIAL PRACTICE: A DESKBOOK FOR CONNECTICUT LITIGATORS (1998 ed.).
 - § II. Basic pleading and practice rules
 - 8. Venue, pp. 28-30.
 - a. Procedure for effectuating transfer
 - b. Multiple plaintiffs
 - c. Timely motion to transfer/Dismiss
 - d. Deference to plaintiff's selection of venue
 - e. Transfer to a more crowded docket
 - f. Transfers for the convenience of lawyers not favored
 - g. Effect of improper venue
 - § IV. Service of process
 - 1. Serving the process
 - i. Defects in returns to court, p. 59
- EDWARD L. STEPHENSON, CONNECTICUT CIVIL PROCEDURE (2d ed. 1982).
 - § 123. Motion for transfer
 - a. General
 - b. Return to wrong venue
 - c. Return to wrong court
 - e. For convenience of parties or court
 - f. Consolidation of companion cases

COMPILER:

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Figure 1 Motion for change of venue

106.13

Motion for Change of Venue

The defendant represents

- 1. This action has been claimed for trial by a jury.
- 2. The matters involved in the action have been given such wide publicity in this area in a manner so derogatory to the defendant and so prejudicial to his interests, that a fair trial by an impartial and unprejudiced jury cannot be had in this court.

Wherefore the defendant moves that the action be transferred to the Superior Court for the judicial district of at or to the Superior Court for some other judicial district (or geographical area) at such location as the court may direct.

Transfer of Actions

(Caption of Case)

STIPULATION

The parties in the above entitled action hereby stipulate that this matter be transferred to the superior court within and for the judicial district of at

	Plaintiff	
	ByAttorney	
	Defendant	
	ByAttorney	
If transfer is by stipulation, an order is required. Rules § 12-1; Gen. Stat., § 52-31		
Motion		
The in the above entitled action m superior court within and for the judicial district of reason, such as pendency of a case in that court arising out of question of law or fact will arise)	oves that this matter be transferred to the at for the reason that (state f the same transaction or in which a common	
Order		
The foregoing motion for transfer having been heard and it appearing that it should be granted, it is hereby Ordered that the above entitled action be transferred to the superior court for the judicial district of		
at Dated at (place and date)	By the Court (, J.)	
	Assistant Clerk	

TRANSFER FOR TRIAL OF ISSUES ONLY

If transfer is for the trial of a particular issue, add to each of the preceding forms: for the determination of (state specific issues to be tried, such as issues raised by motion or otherwise).

Table 1 Unreported Cases on Transfer of Actions

Unreported Cases			
Lasky v. Pivnick, No. FA 00-0724898-S (Nov. 1, 2000) 2000 Ct. Sup. 13466, 2000 WL 1819365, 2000 Conn. Super. LEXIS 3060.	"While the convenience of the parties is of central importance, the court can also take the convenience of witnesses into consideration when deciding whether to grant a motion to transfer venue based on forum inconveniens. However, when the witnesses are family members of a particular party, the court is not required to consider their convenience."		
Joseph Simeone Architects, LLC vs. Beverly Enterprises Connecticut, Inc., No. CV 98-0417311 (Feb. 8, 1999) 1999 Ct. Sup. 1419, 1999 WL 73808, 1999 Conn. Super. LEXIS 307.	"On August 10, 1998, the defendant filed a motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction and for improper venue, along with a supporting memorandum of law. The plaintiff filed a motion to transfer (#105) on August 24, 1998, which was granted by the court (Flynn, J.) on September 9, 1998, rendering the venue issue moot."		
Greater New York Mutual Ins. v. Schnabel, No. CV94- 461174S (Jan. 29, 1996) 1996 Ct. Sup. 1100, 1996 WL 66255.	"The defendant's motion to transfer alleges that both cases raise the same issues of fact and that the determinations made in the personal injury action, in Hartford, will resolve the issues in the action before this court. Further, defendant alleges that judicial economy is served by consolidating these actions. However, the defendant does concede that the speed in which this case is resolved will be greatly lengthened if it is consolidated with the Hartford action, due to the backlog of cases in Hartford." [Motion for Transfer was denied].		

Motion to Transfer to the Regular Docket from Small Claims

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic references relating to the motion to transfer to the regular docket from small claims.

DEFINITIONS:

- Transfer of cases to the regular docket: "A case duly entered on the small claims docket of a small claims area or housing session court location shall be transferred to the regular docket of the superior court or to the regular housing docket, respectively, if the following conditions are met"

 CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 24-21(a) (2004 ed).
- Counterclaim: "The motion to transfer must be accompanied by (A) a counterclaim in an amount greater than the jurisdiction of the small claims court; or" CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 24-21(a)(2) (2004 ed).
- Affidavit: "The motion to transfer must be accompanied . . . or (B) an affidavit stating that a good defense exists to the claim and setting forth with specificity the nature of the defense, or stating that the case has been properly claimed for trial by jury." CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 24-21(a)(2) (2004 ed).
- Without need for a hearing: "When a defendant or plaintiff on a counterclaim has satisfied one of the conditions of subsection (a) (2) herein, the motion to transfer to the regular docket shall be granted by the judicial authority, without the need for a hearing." CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 24-21(a)(3)((b) (2004 ed.).
- **Time**: "This motion must be filed on or before the answer date with certification of service pursuant to Sections 10-12 et seq. If a motion to open claiming lack of actual notice is granted, the motion to transfer with accompanying documents and fees must be filed within five days after the notice granting the motion to open was sent." CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 24-21(a)(1) (2004 ed.).
- Writ of Error: "[W]e conclude that General Statutes 51-197a as amended by Public Acts, Spec. Sess., June, 1983, No. 83-29, 3 does not preclude us from entertaining a writ of error pursuant to General Statutes 52-272 from the Small Claims division of the Superior Court and that we therefore have jurisdiction." <u>Cannavo Enterprises v. Burns</u>, 194 Conn. 43, 48, 478 A.2d 601(1984).

STATUTES:

CONN. GEN. STAT. (2003)

Chapter 870. Judicial Department

§ 51.15. Rules of procedure in certain civil actions. Small claims

(d) "The small claims procedure shall be applicable to all actions, except actions of libel and slander, claiming money damages not in excess of three thousand five hundred dollars, and to no other actions If a motion is filed to transfer a small claims matter to the regular docket in the court, the moving party shall pay the fee prescribed by section 52-259."

Chapter 901. Damages, costs and fees

§ 52-245. False statement concerning defense. Costs

§ 52-251a. Costs and attorney's fees on small claims matter transferred to regular docket

§ 52-259. Court fees

COURT RULES

CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK (2004 ed.)

§ 24-21. Transfer to regular docket.

COMMENTARY ON COURT RULES:

 Commentary following § 24-21 in CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK (2001 Edition)

"The amendment to subsection (a)(1) allows defendants who have claimed lack of actual notice the opportunity to file a motion to transfer to the regular docket. Under the current rule, this motion is not allowed."

"The amendment to subsection (b) was adopted because litigants were being mislead by thinking that if they filed an objection they may be able to keep the case in small claims. Pursuant to <u>Cannavo</u> <u>Enterprises, Inc. v. Burns</u>, 194 Conn. 43 (1984) and <u>Burns v. Bennett</u>, 220 Conn. 162 (1986), when the conditions in the above section are met, the judicial authority must transfer the case to the regular docket."

FORMS:

- Motion To Transfer To The Regular Docket
 - —State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Superior Court, *The Small Claims Process* (JV-CV-45P, rev. 5-01), p. 28.
 - —Form S-146, 3A JOEL M. KAYE ET AL., CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK ANNOTATED (3rd ed. 1996).
- Affidavit Accompanying Motion to Transfer
 - —Form S-147, 3A JOEL M. KAYE ET AL., CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK ANNOTATED (3rd ed. 1996).
- Notice Of Transfer Of Small Claims Case To The Regular Civil Docket
 —JD-CV-12 Rev 11-96

RECORDS & BRIEFS:

• <u>Burns v. Bennet</u>, 220 Conn. 162. CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT RECORDS AND BRIEFS (May 1991).

Motion to Transfer. Figure 1

[Section number updated and attorney name and firm omitted] Affidavit. Figure 2

[Attorney name omitted]

CASES:

• <u>Burns v. Bennet</u>, 220 Conn. 162, 166-168, 595 A.2d 877 (1991). "We find no deficiency in these documents that would render them insufficient to satisfy the demands of § 572 (2) (b). By its terms, the subsection requires only that a motion to transfer be accompanied by an affidavit that first, states that a good defense exists, and second, sets forth with specificity the nature of that defense. In passing on a motion made pursuant to this subsection, a court is

not required to review the legal sufficiency of any defenses asserted, but, rather, is limited to determining whether those defenses have been raised in good faith, not frivolously.

Furthermore, because § 572 (2) (b) directs a defendant to state with specificity the nature of a defense, not the defense itself, compliance does not necessitate a detailed statement of the legal theory underlying the defense, including its underlying facts. Instead, a defendant's motion to transfer need only specify generally the particular defenses upon which he intends to rely. Compare *Jennings v. Parsons*, 71 Conn. 413, 417, 42 A. 76 (1899) (statement of the nature or substance of defense may be made in 'very general terms and in the most informal manner')."

- Logical Communications, Inc. v. Morgan Management Corporation, 4 Conn. App. 669, 671, 496 A.2d 877 (1985). "The trial court was clearly disturbed by the fact that the affidavit submitted for transference of the case from the small claims docket to the regular docket raised a defense that was explicitly contradicted by the defendants' answer and the allegations made in their counterclaim. Under such circumstances, it was proper for the court to consider awarding double costs to the plaintiff under General Statutes 52-245. The award of such costs is in the sound discretion of the trial court. The court did not abuse its discretion by doubling the costs under the facts presented in this case."
- Cannavo Enterprises, Inc. v. Burns, 194 Conn. 43, 51, 478 A.2d 601 (1984). "We hold, therefore, that where a defendant satisfies one of the conditions for a transfer set out in Practice Book 572 [now 24-21], his motion to transfer must be granted. In the present case the defendant alleged by affidavit that a good defense existed and requested a transfer. We find no deficiency in that affidavit which would render it insufficient to satisfy the requirement of Practice Book 572(2) (b) that the affidavit accompanying a motion to transfer state 'that a good defense exists to the claim and [set] forth with specificity the nature of the defense `, Under these circumstances, the trial court had no discretion to deny the request."
- Greater Hartford CATV, Inc. v. Boulay, 7 Conn. Law Tribune No. 9, p. 17, 18 (1980). "The defendants also argue that since the original small claims action failed to state a cause of action for the operator, he should not be considered a plaintiff, and allowed to allege his injuries for the first time, in a substitute complaint. This argument loses sight of the fact that a substitute complaint entirely supersedes the original complaint which drops out of the action and is no longer before the court except as part of the history of the case It is, therefore, immaterial as to whether or not the plaintiff operator alleged injuries in the claim that preceded the substitute complaint."
- <u>Miller v. The Factory Store</u>, 2 Conn. Law Tribune No. 1, p. 3 (Com. Pl. 1975).

WEST KEY NUMBERS:

Courts

Transfer of causes

#483. In general

#484. Courts from and to which transfer may be made

#485. Causes which may be transferred

#486. Grounds

#487. Proceedings

#488. Effect of transfer and proceedings had thereafter

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

- 20 Am Jur 2d Courts (1995). § 13. Small claims courts
- 21 C.J.S. Courts (1990).

- § 193. Transfer of cases. In general
- § 194. When transfer proper
- § 195. Actions brought in court without jurisdiction
- § 196. Mode of effecting transfer and procedure thereof
- § 197. —Hearing and order
- § 198. —Appealed case
- § 199. Effect of transfer; proceedings thereafter
- § 200. —Improper transfer
- § 201. —Retransfer and remanding
- § 202. Effect of refusal of transfer
- Nancy M. King, Annotation, Small Claims: Jurisdictional Limits As Binding On Appellate Court, 67 ALR4th 1117 (1989).

PAMPHLETS:

• State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Superior Court, *The Small Claims Process* (JV-CV-45P, rev. 5-01), pp. 7-8.

TEXTS & TREATISES:

• 1A WESLEY W. HORTON AND KIMBERLY A. KNOX, CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK ANNOTATED (2003).

Commentary following § 24-21

• 3A JOEL M. KAYE ET AL., CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK ANNOTATED (3rd ed. 1996).

Commentary following Forms S-146 and S-147

- RENEE BEVACQUA BOLLIER ET AL. STEPHENSON'S CONNECTICUT CIVIL PROCEDURE (3rd ed. 1997).
 - § 79g. Motion to transfer. Transfer from small claims
- 2 RALPH P. DUPONT, DUPONT ON CONNECTICUT CIVIL PROCEDURE (2003 ed.).
 - § 24-21.1. Transfer mandatory upon proper motion
 - § 24-21.2. Avoiding small claims procedure
- EDWARD L. STEPHENSON, CONNECTICUT CIVIL PROCEDURE (2d ed. 1982).
 - § 123. Motion for transfer
 - g. Transfer from small claims, pp. 503-504.

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Figure 3 Motion to Transfer

NO. SC 91383 SUPERIOR COURT

KIRK A. BENNETT JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF STAMFORD

NORWALK

VS. AT GA 20, AT NORWALK

J. WILLIAM BURNS OCTOBER 25, 1990

MOTION TO TRANSFER

Pursuant to § 24-21 of the Conn. Rules of Practice the defendant hereby moves to transfer the above referenced matter to the regular docket of the Superior Court. The defendant claims that good defenses exist in this matter. Said defenses include but are not limited to:

- a) sovereign immunity
- b) sole proximate cause
- c) contributory negligence
- d) lack of timely notice

The defendant wishes to utilize the discovery process. The defendant wishes to be able to exercise his right to a trial by jury. And the defendant wishes to preserve his right to the appellate process, all of which may be had by the granting of this motion.

For the above listed reasons the defendant requests that this motion be granted.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT A COPY
OF THE ABOVE WAS MAILED ON 10-25-90
TO COUNSEL OF RECORD AND PRO SE
PARTIES

THE DEFENDANT

ORDER

The foregoing motion having been heard by this Court id hereby ordered GRANTED/DENIED.		
BY THE COURT		
	_	
Judge/Clerk		

Figure 4 Affidavit

NO. SC 91383	SUPERIOR COURT
KIRK A. BENNETT	JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF STAMFORD
	NORWALK
VS.	AT GA 20, AT NORWALK
J. WILLIAM BURNS	OCTOBER 25, 1990
AFFIDA	/ІТ
I, being duly sworn, depose and s	say:
1. That I am over the age of 18 years and believe in the	obligation of an oath
2. That I am an attorney with the law firm of	, which represents the defendant in
this matter.	
3. That I am familiar with the facts and legal issues of the	nis case.
4. That good legal defenses exist to this action. Said def	fenses include, but are not limited to:
a) sovereign immunity	
b) sole proximate cause	
c) contributory negligence	
d) lack of timely notice	
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this	day of , 1990
	Commissioner of the Superior Court
	Notary Public

Transfer of Cases

(Supreme and Appellate Courts)

A Guide to Resources in the Law Library

SCOPE:

Bibliographic references relating to the motion for transfer from Appellate Court to Supreme Court, transfer of cases by Supreme Court and transfer of matters brought to wrong court (Supreme or Appellate Court).

DEFINITIONS:

- Transfer of cases by Supreme Court. "When, pursuant to General Statutes § 51-199(c), the supreme court (1) transfers to itself a cause in the appellate court, or (2) transfers a cause or a class of causes from itself to the appellate court, the appellate clerk shall notify all parties and the clerk of the trial court that the appeal has been transferred." CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 65-1 (2004 ed.).
- Motion for Transfer from Appellate Court to Supreme. "After the filing of an appeal in the appellate court, but in no event after the case has been assigned for hearing, any party may move for transfer to the supreme court." CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 65-2 (2004 ed.).
- Motion to transfer (by Appellate Court). "If, at any time before the final determination of an appeal, the appellate court is of the opinion that the appeal is appropriate for supreme court review, the appellate court may file a brief statement of the reasons why transfer is appropriate. The supreme court shall treat the statement as a motion to transfer and shall promptly decide whether to transfer the case to itself." CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 65-2 (2004 ed.).
- Transfer of Matters Brought to Wrong Court. "Any appeal or cause brought to the supreme court or the appellate court which is not properly within the jurisdiction of the court to which it is brought shall not be dismissed for the reason that it was brought to the wrong court but shall be transferred by the appellate clerk to the court with jurisdiction and entered on its docket." CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK § 65-4 (2004 ed.).

STATUTES:

CONN. GEN. STAT. (2001)

Chapter 883. Supreme Court

§ 51-199(c). **Jurisdiction**. "The Supreme Court may transfer to itself a cause in the Appellate Court. Except for any matter brought pursuant to its original jurisdiction under section 2 of article sixteen of the amendments to the Constitution, the Supreme Court may transfer a cause or class of causes from itself, including any cause or class of causes pending on July 1, 1983, to the Appellate Court. The court to which a cause is transferred has jurisdiction.

COURT RULES

CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK (2004 ed.)

Chapter 65. Transfer of cases

§ 65-1. Transfer of cases by Supreme Court

§ 65-2. Motion for transfer from Appellate Court to Supreme Court

§ 65-3. Transfer of petitions for review of bail orders from Appellate Court to Supreme Court

§ 65-4. Transfer of matters brought to wrong court

WEST KEY NUMBERS: • Courts

Transfer of causes #487(9). Proceedings

• Venue #44

TEXTS & TREATISES:

• WESLEY W. HORTON AND SUSAN M. CORMIER, CONNECTICUT PRACTICE BOOK ANNOTATED, RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE (2002 ed.).

Authors' comments following §§ 65-1 to 65-4

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